

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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SIL-01 AID-05 IO-13 DLOS-06 SAL-01 OES-06 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 145

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

STATE

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AF/E - ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAGR, EAID, ECON, SE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MANCHAM OUTLINES GOS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN
FIRST MAJOR ADDRESS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MANCHAM, IN MAJOR OCTOBER 11 POLICY SPEECH,
REVIEWED DOMESTIC PROGRAMS ADOPTED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION BY
SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZING STEPS TAKEN TO
ACCELERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT. MANCHAM
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ALSO CONGRATULATED SEYCHELLOIS FOR DISPLAYING "POLITICAL MATURITY"

DURING INITIAL POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD, CALLED FOR CONTINUED NATIONAL UNITY AND PLEDGED FIRM ACTION IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER. IN BRIEF TREATMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MANCHAM REITERATED NON-ALIGNED POSITION HE FIRST ENUNCIATED IN JUNE 29 INDEPENDENCE ADDRESS AND CITED SEYCHELLES' SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH FRANCE AND UK. HE MADE CLEAR GOS EXPECTS TO RECEIVE BULK OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM THOSE TWO COUNTRIES. SPEECH DID NOT MENTION U.S. OR USAF SATELLITE TRACKING STATION IN SEYCHELLES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT JAMES MANCHAM, IN HOUR-LONG OCTOBER 11 RADIO ADDRESS TO NATION, GAVE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF GOS POLICIES AND PRIORITIES SINCE SEYCHELLES BECAME INDEPENDENT STATE JUNE 29. SPEECH WAS DELIVERED ONE DAY AFTER MANCHAM RETURNED TO SEYCHELLES FROM MONTH-LONG ABSENCE IN NEW YORK (WHERE HE LED GOS DELEGATION TO UNGA) AND EUROPE. MANCHAM EMPHASIZED THAT FIRST PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TO ACCELERATE PACE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVERSIFY SEYCHELLES ECONOMY AND REDUCE CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

2. AGRICULTURE AND FISHING: UNDER 1977-1980 DEVELOPMENT PLAN (DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER), GOS WILL FOCUS SPECIAL ATTENTION ON AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION AND EXPLOITATION OF SEYCHELLES' FISHING POTENTIAL, TWO AREAS WHICH, HE HOPED WOULD ABSORB SEYCHELLES' NUMEROUS UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS. TO EXPAND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, GOS PLANNING TO A) INCREASE AREA UNDER CULTIVATION THROUGH SYSTEM OF INCENTIVES AND CREDITS; B) MODERNIZE FARMING/SECTOR; C) IMPOSE STRICT IMPORT CONTROLS ON FARM PRODUCTS; AND, D) INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE ON SEYCHELLES' OUTER ISLANDS, WHICH MANCHAM CHARGED, WERE COMPLETELY NEGLECTED BY BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. TO TAP SEYCHELLES FISHING POTENTIAL, MANCHAM SAID BRITISH TEAM CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT FULL-SCALE FISHING POLICY STUDY WITH OBJECTIVE OF CREATING TUNA INDUSTRY FOR EXPORT. (ACCORDING TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, COST OF CREATING COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY IN SEYCHELLES IS ESTIMATED AT 23 MILLION POUNDS).

3. TOURISM: MANCHAM SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF SEYCHELLES TOURISM INDUSTRY TO SUSTAIN CURRENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 40 PERCENT AND ACHIEVE GOAL OF 4,000-5,000 TOURISTS PER DAY BY 1990. THIS FIGURE HE CLAIMED WOULD PRODUCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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8,000 JOBS.

4. ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION: IN EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY ECONOMY, MANCHAM ANNOUNCED THAT GOS HAS APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING INDUSTRY (FOR EXPORT TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES) AND SEVERAL SMALL TEXTILE AND OTHER LIGHT MANUFACTURING CONCERNS. HE ALSO SAID GOVERNMENT HOPES IN NEXT YEAR TO REGISTER MORE THAN 100 SHIPS UNDER SEYCHELLES' FLAG OF CONVENIENCE (FOUR HONG

KONG-BASED SHIPS CURRENTLY FLYING SEYCHELLES FLAG). IN FINANCIAL FIELD, MANCHAM SAID GOS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT BANK AND WILL SOON ADOPT AN OFF-SHORE BANKING ORDINANCE.

5. FOREIGN RELATIONS: IN COMPARATIVELY BRIEF REMARKS ON SEYCHELLES FOREIGN POLICY, MANCHAM SAID GOS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY PRINCIPLE OF "FRIEND TO ALL, ENEMY TO NONE" WHICH WAS FIRST ARTICULATED IN INDEPENDENCE ADDRESS (VICTORIA 40 NOTAL). FRANCE AND UK WERE SINGLED OUT BY MANCHAM AS COUNTRIES HAVING "PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP" WITH SEYCHELLES AND ANNOUNCED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WERE SENDING ECONOMIC AID MISSIONS IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED PROSPECTIVE VISIT IN EARLY 1977 OF FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION AND PAID GLOWING TRIBUTE TO BRITISH FOR PAST AND PRESENT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF U.S. OR USAF SATELLITE TRACKING STATION.

6. LOS CONFERENCE: MANCHAM STATED THAT SEYCHELLES RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF OUTCOME OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO FUTURE OF SEYCHELLES AND HAD CONSEQUENTLY SENT DELEGATIONS TO ALL LOS SESSIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT RECENTLY CONCLUDED LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE BUT CLAIMED TO FORESEE "AN INEXORABLE MOVEMENT TOWARD A 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE FOR COASTAL STATES." SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, HE ADDED, WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT SEYCHELLES IN EXPLOITATION OF POSSIBLE OIL AND MINERAL SEABED WEALTH AND EXCELLENT FISHING GROUNDS.

(ACCORDING GOS REP AT LOS CONFERENCE, WITH EEZ OF 200 MILES AROUND EACH ISLAND, SEYCHELLES, WITH LAND AREA OF ONLY 117 SQ. MILES, WOULD HAVE EZ OF 400,000 SQ. MILES).

7. PUBLIC ORDER: AT END OF SPEECH, MANCHAM, WHO EARLIER HAD PRAISED SEYCHELLOIS FOR THEIR "POLITICAL MATURITY" (INTERPRETED LOCALLY TO MEAN ABSENCE OF CRITICISM OF GOS AND OVERT PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY), SAID HE WOULD BE "SYSTEMATICALLY FIRM" IN ALL AREAS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC ORDER. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO DISAF-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FECTED MEMBERS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES WHO HAVE BEEN DISADVANTAGED BY COALITION GOVERNMENT, HE ALSO GAVE STERN WARNING THAT GOS WOULD NOT TOLERATE "ACTS OF SABOTAGE" BY ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP.

8. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON POST-INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL SCENE FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

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